

the other, the public distribution system has collapsed. According to official figures, the wholesale price index has risen by 13% in the last eight weeks. I have collected the prices of 21 items marketed by multinationals and big traders. Topaz blades available for Rs. 3.75 during the pre-budget period is now selling at Rs. 4.50. Similarly, the price of Surf has increased from Rs. 31.50 to Rs. 36.50 and the price of washing soap from Rs. 12.00 to Rs. 15.00.

So these are the figures. On one side is the price rise which has adversely affected the poor man and those with fixed income and on the other side, 3000 out of 3610 fair price shops in Delhi have no stocks of wheat and rice and sugar is being sold at inflated rates. When enquiries were made, it was told that F.C.I. employees had started a work-to-rule agitation. The consequences of such agitations have to be borne by the citizens of Delhi. The fair-price shop-owners have deposited their drafts one month ago but they have not received any stock till now. The Hon. Prime Minister says that the public distribution system is being strengthened, but in the capital city of India 3000 of the 3600 shops have run out of rations. And festival time is approaching. I request the hon. Minister of Civil Supplies to attend to this matter on a priority basis and take steps to control the price-rise. The ruling party had promised to bring down prices within 100 days, but the prices instead of coming down have risen. I request for replenishment of stocks at the fair-price shops and strengthening of the public distribution system.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir, ever since the last Lok Sabha elections were held, the atrocities on Adivasis have increased. They are being exploited much more now and their plight has become worse. Earlier this month, on 9th August, in Somakheri village of Kharagone district upper caste people killed two Adivasis, burnt their dwellings and

forced other Adivasis to leave the village. Police had prior information regarding this. Such incidents had occurred on 7th July and 15th July also, but the Madhya Pradesh police failed to take any security measures. This has led to a feeling of resentment among all Adivasis.

Sir, I request the Government to provide security to the Adivasis in consultation with the Madhya Pradesh Government...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Ask the people from Andhra, they will tell...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: It is necessary. The atrocities on Adivasis have increased to such an extent that their very existence is in jeopardy. This calls for a statement from the leader of the House...*(Interruptions)*...Please sit down, you do not know as to what is happening there.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, earlier also when such issues were raised the hon. Home Minister has always informed the House about such incidents because this House has given due importance to the question of safety and security of Adivasis, Harijans, backward classes and minorities. I believe that this time also the hon. Minister will apprise the House of the situation after collecting the full information.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I would like to draw your attention to an important matter. The L & T take over bid would be put through today. My other colleagues will speak on the matter...

MS. SPEAKER: I am giving you permission to speak on the subject of floods.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Floods have affected northern Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh. According

to reports, my constituency has come under the grip of floods. This matter has been discussed in the House, but those discussions have yielded nothing.....

The reply that the Government gave was not satisfactory and no specific step has been taken in this direction. Therefore, we urge the Central Government to take it seriously and provide assistance as far as possible to the flood affected areas.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the assurance given by the leader of the House in this regard...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Assurance is given when atrocities are committed. We have an Assurance Committee to look into them...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is going to take over L & T and has thrown all the rules and regulations to winds. Therefore, I would urge you to call the Finance Minister...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: How much more time would you take?

...*(Interruptions)*...

[English]

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Please don't allow the floor of the House to become a battlefield for the corporate giants. Let them settle it in the Court of Law.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Let the Finance Minister say the same thing. He should make the position of the Government clear on the subject. Why is he sitting silent? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I have been saying in this House that this is the Budget Session. We

are going to pass the Budget to the tune of more than Rs. 1,50,000 crores. Upto this time it has not been possible to discuss the Budget of one Ministry also. Would you like that all these things should be discussed and the Budget should not be discussed? I cannot understand this. Within the time limit you have been allowed to raise issues. Please don't take up the time of the House. All things are important; but let us fix up the priority. I can understand your anxiety and you are well within your right; yet we shall have to fix up the priority. Please cooperate with the House; cooperate with the system itself. If you don't cooperate with the system, I am afraid, there will be chaos in the system. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karl Bagh): Mr. Speaker Sir, houses are collapsing in my area because of rains *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kalka Das, I don't appreciate this. Please sit down.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The Finance Minister should make a statement on the L&T take over.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, we have to go to other items. You come to my Chamber and convince me. If I am convinced, I will allow you tomorrow. I am not going to allow you to use the time of the House like this. You convince me in the Chamber, give notice and I will allow you. You are a very very enlightened Member of this House. You know how to use the rules. You also know how to get your rights. I am sure that you will be able to convince me in my Chamber. There, the time of the House will not be taken. My time and your time may be utilised properly. Please don't stop the business in the House.

Now papers to be laid on the Table.